

STATE OF NEW YORK

In Senate

Albany

May 13, 1971

Resolution No. 141

By: Messrs. Hughes, Brydges,
Zaretski, Bernstein, Bloom, Bookson,
Bronston, Calandra, Conklin, Ferraro, Garcia,
Giordano, Goldin, Greenberg, Griffin,
LaFalce, Lentol, Meyerson, Ohrenstein,
Powers, Santucci, Schwartz, Stewart,
Thaler

Concurrent resolution of the Legislature
of the State of New York to memorialize
the Congress of the United States to
take all necessary steps to persuade
the government of Turkey to immediately
destroy its opium poppy fields before
the 1971 harvest in return for reim-
bursement to its opium poppy farmers
of the damages suffered thereby from
funds appropriated for that purpose
by the State of New York and the
United States Congress

Whereas, Death from an overdose of heroin represents the greatest single
cause of death among the youth of New York City; and

Whereas, All efforts by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies
to interdict the smuggling of heroin into the United States and its sale within
this state have failed to curb this traffic; and

Whereas, On April 7, 1971, the New York State Commission of Investigation
reported to the governor of this state that

"Law enforcement's approach to this problem
has been ineffective. The traffic in heroin
has not been curbed. Indeed, it is flourishing";

and

Whereas, The New York State Legislature has four times in the last twenty
years amended the anti-narcotic laws of this state to provide for both more severe
and mandatory punishments for heroin traffickers with little effect on the traffic
itself; and

Whereas, Despite every effort by New York State to curb the increases in the
number of persons addicted to heroin, the number of identified addicts has increased
in New York City alone from 52,000 in 1968 to an estimated 103,000 in 1971; and

Whereas, New York State is required to spend over \$100,000,000.00 annually
directly for the care, treatment, rehabilitation and retraining of a small fraction
of the narcotic addict population; and

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Whereas, The Addiction Services Agency of the City of New York will have spent over \$80 million during the 1970-71 fiscal year to assist 3,500 addicts and would require \$2 1/2 billion to treat and care for only 100,000 of the addicts now residing in the City of New York; and

Whereas, There are an estimated 15,000 narcotics addicts presently receiving welfare assistance from the City of New York at a direct cost of over \$50 million annually; and

Whereas, The major portion of violent and other serious crimes committed in New York City and the other cities of this State results from the tragic need of heroin addicts to obtain funds to pay for the heroin they consume; and

Whereas, In 1960, there were 1841 felony arrests in New York State of persons charged with selling narcotics or possessing narcotics in an amount sufficient to create a presumption of intent to sell and in 1969 there were 18,489 felony arrests in New York State for this same crime, an increase of 1000% and in 1970, in New York City alone, there were 26,799 felony arrests in this category, a 44% increase over the entire state-wide figure for the year previous, so that our law enforcement agencies are being overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of narcotic sellers and addicts being processed through our criminal justice system; and

Whereas, It now appears that the only practical solution to halt the continued flood of heroin into the State of New York is the destruction of the opium poppy at its source; and

Whereas, It would be less expensive and more effective for the State of New York to contribute toward the cost of preventing opium cultivation than to concentrate its resources in treating heroin addicts or combating the huge and profitable traffic in narcotics taking place on the streets of its cities; and

Whereas, Eighty-five percent of all of the heroin sold in the State of New York is refined from the sap of the opium poppy (papaver somniferum) grown in Turkey; and

Whereas, Opium, unlike other dangerous drugs, cannot be synthetically produced, nor can it be cultivated in any but selected areas within the world; and

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Whereas, To date Turkey has failed and neglected to control the diversion of its opium crop to illegal channels; and

Whereas, By the end of 1970, the Turkish government and nation has received in excess of \$5 billion in military and economic assistance from our federal government which monies were raised in substantial part through taxation of the citizens of this state; and

Whereas, The public statements of members of the Turkish Government on the problem of limiting the cultivation of the opium poppy in Turkey have evidenced an appalling lack of concern about the crisis caused in this state as well as this nation by Turkey's failure to strictly enforce the international treaty binding it to destroy all opium poppy production not grown for legitimate purposes; and

Whereas, Opium can be harvested only during one twenty-four hour period each year, which period occurs during the last week of June or the first week of July each year; and

Whereas, The illegal opium poppy production in Turkey intended for diversion to the heroin traffic can only be harvested simultaneously and from the same fields as those devoted to the legitimate cultivation of the opium poppy; and

Whereas, The world supply of legitimate opium presently in stock is sufficient to satisfy all legitimate needs for the foreseeable future; and

Whereas, Eighty-five percent of the heroin supplied to the addicts of this state can be interdicted if all the Turkish opium poppy fields now under cultivation were destroyed prior to the approaching harvest date, which destruction can be accomplished for a fraction of the present cost to this state resulting from the traffic in heroin; now, therefore, be it

Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the Congress of the United States be and hereby is memorialized to take all necessary steps to persuade the government of Turkey to immediately destroy its opium poppy fields before the 1971 harvest in return for reimbursement to its opium poppy farmers of the damages suffered thereby from funds appropriated for that purpose by the State of New York and the United States Congress; and be it further

Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Congress of the United States by forwarding one copy to the Secretary of the

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Senate and one copy to the Clerk of the House of Representatives, and one copy to each member of the Congress from the State of New York and that the latter be urged to devote themselves to the task of accomplishing the purposes of this resolution.

By order of the Senate,

Secretary